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curves and twists of spirals, cycloids, and circles innumerable, are all the patterns of things, the letters, the copy-book. The clay and the potters' tools are pen, ink, and paper. The lines of least resistance are partly in the hand of the potter, indeed, as Mr. Holmes has shown; they are partly in the muscles of the eye, as Mr. Hartt has said; but further back than all this is the force of usage and inheritance.

If we hang a hat intentionally on a peg eleven times, the twelfth time it will hang itself up. This is the universal and beneficent law of the passage of painful voluntariness into semi-automatism which follows the frequent repetition of any act whatsoever. We are pleased with certain muscular movements which have been oft repeated. There is no doubt, therefore, that the eye accustomed to certain outlines, the brain accustomed to certain consecutive impressions, are pleased with that which has become semi-automatic and habitual. We know that such tendencies are strengthened by inheritance, for we have here the application of a universal law of heredity.

Dr. FRANK BAKER said that Hartt seemed in some respects to ignore certain physiological laws in discussing the movements of the eye, and to have too little considered inventive geniuses. The source of art must be sought for in the brain that controls the eye; in the association of nerve cells that prompt the movement of muscles. Taste may follow and accept suggestions from natural forms, but art is not imitative, for, having its source in invention, it gives something nature does not.

Mr. FRANK H. CUSHING said that Hartt apparently did not try to ascertain what the eye might develop, but having certain forms at hand reasoned therefrom. The speaker had found in his studies of ceramic art in the southwest that decoration in basketry had long preceded that of pottery, and that the resulting forms might be generally attributed to adventitious, and taste might have its principal source in the environment.

EIGHTY-EIGHTH REGULAR MEETING, January 6, 1884.

Major J. W. Powell, President, in the Chair.

The Secretary of the Council made the following announcements :

The election of Dr. J. H. Yarnall, as an active member of

the Society ; and George H. Black, Edinboro', Scotland, and Hermann Ten Kate, The Hague, Holland, as corresponding members.

Mr. H. N. BATES read a "Memorandum concerning certain Mounds in Pontotoc county, Mississippi," visited by J. M. Pollard, Esq., of Louisiana. No abstract.

Mr. O. T. MASON read a paper prepared by DANIEL G. BRINTON, "ON THE PROBABLE NATIONALITY OF THE MOUND-BUILDERS."

Dr. Brinton said : Further reading on the subject, and also the observations during a trip made to the principal monuments in Ohio, have confirmed me in the opinion that we need not go any farther than the Southern tribes to find the modern representatives of the mound-builders. Since I wrote the article on the mound-builders, Mr. Horatio Hale has published his suggestive paper, in which he adds strength to this position by linguistic evidence.

It would probably be hasty to point to any one of the Southern tribes as being specifically the descendants of the nation who constructed the great works in the Scioto and Miami Valleys. The evidence is ample that nearly all the tribes of the Gulf States and Lower Mississippi were accustomed to throw up works of similar character and often greater magnitude. They were of radically diverse languages, but nearly in the same plane of culture. The Natchez, the Taensas, the Choctaws, the Creeks, the Cherokees, and others might put in equal claims. The last mentioned asserted that they once lived in the Upper Ohio Valley, and that they built the Grave Creek and other mounds, and they are borne out in such claims by various historic data.

With regard to the Shawnees, it has not been sufficiently recognized by writers that their name in the Algonkin dialects is not a national appellation, but a geographical term. It means simply "Southerners," and in its earliest employment bore no special reference to the tribe whom we call Shawnees. It first appears in a map drawn in 1614, intended to show the Dutch colony around New Amsterdam. In this the "Sawanneh" are located as inhabiting the whole of Southern New Jersey ; whereas the Shawnees, as we understand the term first came to the notice of the New York colony in 1692. On this map it simply means "Southern rivers" with reference to the position of New York harbor.

By dialect, tradition, and political affiliation the Shawnees were a northern tribe who moved south at no very remote period. Their language, according to the Moravian missionaries, was closer to the Mohegan than to the Delaware, Nanticoke, or other Southern Algonkin dialects. By tradition they at one time were a branch of the Mohegans on the Hudson, and it was to them that they returned when driven from their towns in Carolina and on the Tennessee river. The name of their principal clan, the Pequa or Pick-e-weu, is said by Heckewelder to be the same as that of the Pequods, of Connecticut, and he relates that the Mohegans told him that the two were of the same family.

If we can depend upon this evidence, and there is no reason why it should be rejected, the "Pre-historic Shawnees" are to be looked for in New York and New England. I have no idea whether this will correspond with Professor Thomas' views, but I should be gratified to hear that we had reached identical conclusions from independent study of the subject.

The four clans of the Shawnees were assembled in Ohio, but in Pennsylvania I have not found evidence of any but the Pequas, who lived in the valley that still bears their name in Lancaster county. Their state of culture was nowise ahead of that of the Delawares. They had one clan named Chillicothe, and three of their settlements in Ohio bore this name, but while there they had not the slightest knowledge or tradition about the ancient earthworks, as we are assured by the Rev. David Jones, who went out to teach them Christianity in 1772, and who, I think, is the earliest writer who calls attention to the remarkable remains in Southern Ohio.

Prof. CYRUS THOMAS read a paper entitled "Prehistoric Shawnees, from Mound Testimony."

Before reading his paper, Prof. THOMAS said, referring to the preceding paper, that he had recently written a letter with a view to procuring an exploration of Pontotoc county, Miss., without any positive knowledge that ancient remains existed there, and that the paper of Mr. Pollard was in verification of the speaker's assumption that such remains would be found in that vicinity.

Mr. C. C. ROYCE, at the request of the Society, read an extract from a former paper of his on the origin of the "Shawnees."

President POWELL said that the papers read before the Society during the past two years seemed to establish the fact that the

mound-builders were Indians, and that many Indians built mounds. While small burial mounds were frequent and widely distributed, the larger mounds and earthworks with circumvallation—once probably crowned with palisades—were confined to narrower limits. The old theory that attributed these remains to an extinct high grade of civilization seemed to be well nigh abandoned.

Dr. GREGORY said that he had held to the old theory until he had become convinced of its error, and described a large mound, some fifty feet high, that he visited in Minnesota, which gave conclusive evidence of its comparatively recent structure. Depressions were still to be seen close about the foot of the mound, from whence material had apparently been taken to aid in forming the mound.

SEVENTH ANNUAL AND EIGHTY-NINTH REGULAR MEETING,
January 20, 1885.

Major J. W. POWELL, President, in the Chair.

The Secretary of the Council announced the election of John Addison Porter and H. L. Reynolds as active members of the Society, and advised the Society of the death of Dr. Henri Martin, of Paris, France, and Dr. R. J. Farquharson, of Des Moines, Iowa, corresponding members of the Society.

The Treasurer then submitted his annual report.

On the motion of Col. MALLERY, the President appointed Messrs. Bates, Baker, and Holmes a committee (composed of members outside the Council) to audit the accounts of the Treasurer.

This session being the time for the annual election of officers, the balloting for officers resulted as follows :

PRESIDENT	.	.	.	.	.	J. W. POWELL.
						ROBERT FLETCHER.
VICE-PRESIDENTS	.	.	.	.	.	LESTER F. WARD.
						GARRICK MALLERY.
						OTIS T. MASON.
GENERAL SECRETARY	.	.	.	.	.	S. V. PROUDFIT.
SECRETARY TO THE COUNCIL	.	.	.	.	.	F. A. SEELY.